

# *The* *Old Paludians* *Newsletter*

Founded 1915

Website: [www.oldpaludians.org](http://www.oldpaludians.org)

## *March 2014*

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### EDITORIAL

Well, here we go with the first Newsletter since the school became Upton Court Grammar School. I expect that, like me, most of you will continue to refer to the school by the name under which you knew it rather than the new title. However, what's in a name? On Reunion Day we remember our education, school life and former colleagues rather than the name of the school, which has been altered several times over the years anyway.

Recently I was at home pondering Reunion Day when my gaze fell on a copy of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" by Thomas Hughes. This copy had been presented to me at the age of 7 by the Sunday School I attended in Norfolk. Having found the book beyond my 7-year-old reading skills - it contains words like "sacerdotal", "demi-culverin" and "opodeldoc" (how many Old Pals can define that one?) - I put it to one side and only now, 60 years later, decided to give it another go. As many will know, it deals with life at a public school (Rugby) in the 1830s and I wondered how that might compare with a grammar school education some 120 years later. In truth, there isn't much similarity, the Rugby of that era being far more suited to Dennis the Menace and his pea-shooter than any softies with academic aspirations. It was interesting to note the degree of bullying in those days - a subject often in the news these days, particularly the cyber variety. Personally, despite being a rather weedy, asthmatic lad in my early SGS years, I rarely encountered bullying, except maybe as it affected the portions distributed at school dinners. Given the frequently inedible nature of the food back then, though, that might be deemed an act of mercy! Others, of course, may have different memories.

Back in the days when I was a reader rather than editor of the Newsletter, I must admit it was my custom only to read the entries which concerned my own generation. One of the pleasures of editorship is that I am obliged to read everyone's contributions and in so doing have been able to form a much broader picture of life - school and thereafter - of alumni from both boys' and girls' schools. For instance, I'd never heard of the group of SHS pupils who were trained specifically for a career in nursing under the "pre-N" scheme established by Miss Crawford. I wish now that - in the nicest possible way - there could have been more contact between the two schools in those days. Of course, boys and girls mixed socially but the only time the two schools got together during school hours, as I recall, was when we lads went across to SHS for ballroom dancing classes. Looking back, I'm sure we would have benefited from more joint activities, such as choral singing and school plays. Anyway, please keep the memories coming over the next year - I'll be starting to compile the 2015 Newsletter as soon as this year's reunion is over.

A big "thank you" to my predecessor **Shelagh Rothero** for proof-reading this year's version; also to **Jean Tyler** and **Shelagh Whitehouse** for helping to validate some of the contents.

Finally, some of you may remember **Mari Burton**, who attended our reunion last year and interviewed some members for her project, which focused on experiences, thoughts and memories of a grammar school education. Mari was a student at Holloway College. She reports that she has now had her dissertation marked and that it was awarded a distinction. This result is obviously very pleasing, so many thanks to those who participated and helped make the project a success. A bound copy of the final document is being made available to the Old Pals.

**Bob Moss.**

NB. **Singers** are still wanted for the Reunion on March 15<sup>th</sup>, when the songs will commemorate the outbreak of WWI. If you can sing one of the parts (SATB) and would like to join a small choir, please contact me asap, preferably by email ([rcmoss@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rcmoss@blueyonder.co.uk)), stating which part you can sing. I need to know of your interest in advance in order to provide volunteers with music.

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Greetings to everyone!

We had a joyful reunion at school in July 2013, and members who attended were very impressed with the new restaurant and sixth-form building. The summer date did not prove to be very popular because many members were either on holiday or had previous commitments, so we have reverted to the third Saturday in March for the 2014 gathering. The School may be having more building work next year, so at the time of writing I cannot give a date for 2015.

However the Committee are hoping that you will all support the Centenary Celebrations in 2015. Please come to the reunion and send in contributions to make the Newsletter the best ever. Much has happened since Francis Smith founded the Association and we hope to celebrate the best from the schools during the past 100 years. It is not too early to start writing your reminiscences of your time in School (or as a member of an Old Paludians Sports team) for the Newsletter or website. The book of photographs should also be finished and ready for sale.

Thank you for keeping in touch with us and for letting us know when you change your address. It is a shame when our letters are returned to us marked "gone away" or our emails marked "not known".

As always, I would like to thank our President, Mrs Mercedes Hernández Estrada, for her continuing support and the Committee for setting time aside to attend meetings. Special thanks are due to Bob Moss, who has edited the Newsletter, and to Shelagh Whitehouse, who has processed your replies for this year's reunion. Finally, a big thank you to all our members - without you there would not be an Old Paludians Association.

**Jean Tyler**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MRS MERCEDES HERNÁNDEZ ESTRADA

Since the last Newsletter the school has changed name and, as you know, from 1<sup>st</sup> September we have been known as Upton Court Grammar School. This change of name marks the transition into the second century for the school. The school values its tradition of excellence and honours all of those who have, through their academic credentials and personal commitment, become outstanding members of the community and role models for us all.

The Upton Court Grammar School shield has adopted the imagery of the **phoenix**. In Greek mythology φοίνιξ *phóinīx* is a long-lived bird that is cyclically regenerated or reborn, obtaining new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. Upton Court Grammar School builds up his future glory on the seeds sown by Slough Grammar School. Around the shield you can find an intricate design which has two letters. These are two C's because, in Roman numerals, the letter C stands for Century. One of the C's looks back at the last hundred years in the life of the school, the other looks forward in anticipation of future successes.

This has been a fantastic summer indeed. The school has been full of smiles and happy tears as students collected their GCSE and A2 results. The press has commented on the fact that it is the second year running when results have declined. Bucking the trend, our students have delivered our best results ever! At **GCSE**, 99% of our students achieved 5 A\* to C grades, including English and Maths with almost two-thirds of all the grades at A\* / A. Individual successes are many, as 108 students were awarded 5 or more A\*/A grades and 38 had 10 or more A\*/As. At **A2** over a third of all grades are A\*/A and almost two-thirds of all the grades are B and above.

I would like to draw your attention to the **new website** which has been released at the same time as our new name and logo. It has been redesigned following feedback from parents and visitors and we believe you will find it easier to navigate. We also think that the redesign makes it fresh and modern whilst retaining our values and ethos.

With the launch of our new name, Mrs Hayer is calling parents to a meeting to relaunch the **Upton Court Grammar School Parents and Friends' Association (PAFA)**, which will continue the excellent work of the PSA (Parents and Staff Association). We would like to invite members of the Association to join this vital group, as it will give you a fantastic opportunity to get involved in supporting school activities and events to enhance the school experience for all our students.

In December, Upton Court Grammar School received recognition by the Department for Education and Her Majesty's Schools Inspectorate, Ofsted, placing the school in the top 10% nationally based on the GCSE performance of students across 8 subjects, confirming the school's commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum to all students. The annually published report, Raiseonline, provides all schools with detailed information about GCSE performance of students compared to other schools in England and Wales. This latest government commissioned report indicated the outstanding success of Upton Court Grammar School students in the core subjects, with students performing in the top 2% in English, top 5% in Mathematics and top 6% in Science, compared to all schools nationally. Our summer results were stunning due to the combination of supportive parents, talented youngsters and dedicated staff. These new reports give us reason to celebrate again and share proudly the success of our students.

We have also been delighted to see the "value added" figures that show us that the school and its staff make a real difference and young people attending Upton Court Grammar School make better progress than students in local grammar schools. The reports have also been a source of inspiration and motivation to young people who have been completing their mock exams and embarking on the last stretch of their preparation for the June GCSE and A level exams.

Upton Court Grammar School formed the **Upton Court Educational Trust** for the advance of education in the local area. It sought approval from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Nash, to sponsor Foxborough Primary School. Lord Nash approved the sponsorship and both schools were informed on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Despite our differences, both schools believe in the benefits which working together will bring. There are plans for the teachers to share ideas, training and expertise to improve the outcomes and opportunities for children at both schools. Staff at Upton Court Grammar School contribute to the provision for Gifted and Talented students, leadership, teaching and learning, support with HR and Finance functions, the extra-curricular programme and the mentoring system. Sixth Form students will have opportunities for community service and work experience. There are plans to extend the scope of their collaboration in future years. I have personally enjoyed spending time at Foxborough School, where I have felt its warmth, seen the care and dedication of staff and the joy of learning in students. It is a school which has a lot to offer to the young people of Slough. I have met parents, staff and students and plan to visit the school regularly so that we can put exciting plans together. Upton Court Grammar School is committed to excellence and personal enrichment as much as to the fulfilment of every child's potential. The school motto is "Ad Astra", which sums up the commitment to help children at both schools "Reach for the Stars".

At the end of January the school welcomed Fergus Walsh as a **keynote speaker** to launch the "Future's Day". Mr Walsh is the BBC medical correspondent with lead responsibility for reporting medical research and global disease threats. Mr Walsh has reported on such diverse topics as HIV/AIDS in Malawi, polio in Nigeria, leprosy in India, child poverty and health in Bangladesh, bird flu in Vietnam and Turkey, swine flu in Australia and obesity in the United States. In December 2009, he received an honorary degree, a Doctorate of Civil Law (DCL) from Newcastle University. His citation stated that Walsh "has done more than any other journalist to facilitate public comprehension of the most challenging health issues of our times". It was a great honor to welcome Mr Walsh to Upton Court Grammar School. Students enjoyed his presentation and put to him a number of challenging questions.

January has been a **very sad time** for the family of Rishi Kukar, who died suddenly following a heart problem. We shared with the school community his passing at the time. Students and parents had the opportunity to pass on their condolences and share their memories during the funeral service that took place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Many staff and students attended the funeral and those who were in school observed a minute of silence at 12.15 as a sign of respect. The school had a book of condolences and a "memory box" where students placed photos, stories, etc. to share with the family. We will be planting a tree in his memory and will invite his family in for that occasion. His father has expressed his gratitude for the support he received in the days leading up to and on the day of his funeral. His death is a great loss to all but Rishi will always live in our hearts and memories.

## **\*\*STAFF AND PUPILS\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE:** The paragraphs below are divided as follows:

- 1) **STAFF** - news followed by "In Memoriam" section
- 2) **PUPILS** - listed by decade, with the key date being when each pupil **started** their SHS/SGS education. Each decade is subdivided into "**GIRLS**" and "**BOYS**", followed by a similar "**In Memoriam**" section.

## **\*\*STAFF NEWS\*\***

**Rev Ivy Halden (SHS 1941-74)** - Ivy taught English at SHS for many years and it is a great pleasure to report that on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 she reached her century. A box of chocolates was despatched and a special card will be available for members to sign at the reunion.

**Margaret Rowland (SHS 1945-78)** - is unable to attend the reunion but expressed her thanks for the "lovely flowers" sent to her (and two other members of staff) for Christmas by the committee. She sends her best wishes for 2014 to everyone.

**Janet Sumner (SHS 1961-80)** - sends her best wishes to **Ivy Halden (see above)** and adds that she is still in touch with **Margaret Rowland (see above)**. She sends best wishes to any who remember her.

**Joan Burrell-Davis (SHS 1967-69?)** - asked me to pass on her best wishes to everyone. Joan was an Oxford graduate and taught English and History at SHS for a short time, probably 1967 - 1969. She is now 92. She recalled teaching "Pre-Ns" during her teaching years. I had to admit ignorance of this group, so Joan explained that they were girls recruited from other schools at the age of 13, to be trained specifically for a career in nursing. Apparently, this was a scheme set up by Miss Crawford. Are there any Pre-Ns out there among the membership?

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM \*\***

**Joan Camp (SHS 1942-48)** - Joan died peacefully at home on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. She was in her 99<sup>th</sup> year. A death notice appeared in "The Times" on March 7<sup>th</sup>, describing her as "the inspirational founding headmistress of Aylesbury High School". Her funeral was held in Amersham on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Joan is remembered by former SHS pupils as a cheerful, enthusiastic person and an extremely good teacher. Apart from teaching History, she also collaborated with English teacher **Muriel Evason** to produce school plays. One pupil recalled that, when Joan left SHS, she and several other departing teachers performed an item called "The Dirge of the Departing Women!" In 1946 Joan travelled to the United States under the UK-US Fulbright Teacher Exchange Programme, begun in 1924, whereby teachers in both countries studied the ideas, methods and practices of their opposite numbers. She subsequently became a deputy director of the programme. If anyone (with Internet access) would like to hear a wonderfully articulate Joan being interviewed in 2011 about this experience, just Google "Joan Camp" and watch the 3-minute recording.



(Many thanks to Kathy Clark (Jamieson), Mary Hall (Kiely), Mavis Admans (Westbrook), Olive Craddock (Wallis) and Shirley Knight, who all helped with memories of Joan.)

## **\*\*1920s - IN MEMORIAM\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Rinah Kew (1923-29)** - Just before the closing date for entries to this year's Newsletter, we received the sad news that Rinah had passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup>, her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. She had been unwell since the end of January and died in hospital. Her funeral was scheduled for Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's Church, Langley. At school Rinah was keen on sport - she and her sister are in several of the photographs taken of the SSS and OPA hockey teams. She worked as Company Secretary at Weatherfoil, a manufacturing enterprise on Slough Trading Estate. A keen golf player, she had been the Ladies' Captain at Maidenhead Golf Club. Apart from golf, she was also interested in cooking and gardening. Many Old Pals members will remember her coming to our Reunion up to two years ago with her friend, Connie Edwards, who is now 103. She lived in her own home to the end.

## **\*\*1930s\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Marjorie Cruse (1931-35)** - "Each year when the invitation arrives I think, this is the last one for me - a week before the event I shall be 94. I still keep in touch with Hilda Halls (see below), who is a little younger than me, but she lives in Cornwall and also can't get about. There isn't much fun in getting old! Best wishes for 2014."

**Hilda Halls (Milcoy, 1932-37)** - wrote in June 2013 that she would be sorry to miss the (2013) reunion - distance and limited mobility made it impossible. She doubts there are many of her generation left (she is now 92); however, any who were members during the 1950s, when she was secretary of the old girls' half of the "Old Pals", may remember her. She was also a member of the Hockey Club and the Tennis Club. Hilda wrote again briefly in 2014, saying she would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembered her.

**Beryl Wheatley (Davies, 1933-39)** - regretted being unable to attend the reunion "owing to great age (91)!"

**Joan Hedge (Stutt, 1936-44)** - "I shall not be attending any further reunions. **Daphne Botting (May, SHS 1936-42)** and I are the only ones from our generation now attending. We only live a short distance apart, so we meet from time to time. I hope that the association continues to prosper in the future."

**Iris Hull (Burnett, 1937-42)** - wrote before last year's reunion: "The years have caught up with me and my travelling days are behind me; so, although I shall be with you in spirit, I won't be at the reunion on July 6<sup>th</sup>. I have so many happy memories of schooldays, boyfriends, etc., and am heaving a little sigh as I type this. I am now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and currently on email. I'd love to be in touch with anyone who remembers me."

**Daphne Anderson (1938-46)** - "Last year's Newsletter entry recording the death of my sister Irene Anderson (Head Girl 1937-38) referred to me only as Irene's sister, without any name. In case this gave the impression that I am no longer compos mentis (*can't quite see why anyone would make that inference* - Ed.), I should like to assure anyone interested that I am still here but unable to travel. Last year I broke my collar-bone while attending a class to improve walking! Now I am recovering, slowly, from a broken hip after falling down stairs. I spent Christmas in hospital, where the age range was 104, 99, 97, 94....to 86, all hip cases. We are not old but please wear an alarm if you live alone!"

**Pamela Kilpin (Brown, 1939-46)** - wrote from Canada in 2013: "I enjoyed reading the Newsletter and think you all do a good job. Last summer (August 2012) my four girls and I, along with their husbands, cruised from Vancouver to Juneau, Alaska. We stopped in Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan, going ashore each time and taking in different activities. On the return we sailed into Glacier Bay, it was very cold, with glaciers along each shore. I thoroughly enjoyed it, a great way to celebrate my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Hope you have a great reunion. I'm sorry I never get there now but I love hearing about it. Tell **Betty Absolon (Chapman, 1939-45)**, if you ever see her, that I remember her."

**Pamela Green (Dear, 1939-44)** - wishes everyone a happy reunion and sends her regards.

## **BOYS**

**Arthur Day (1936-42)** - Last year's Newsletter referred to a book which Arthur has written called "Thistle Make You Think". However, there were no details of the subject matter. Arthur says the book deals with the global debt crisis and summarises the content as follows: "I see the book as something that needs to be said. It is not out to convince the reader of anything; rather, it aims to stir him (or her) to consider the everyday things we all accept without thinking. Instead of supinely accepting what they are told, people should exercise their brains to question the debt crisis. In the book, two straightforward, working taxpayers question the values and circumstances of their daily lives and reach conclusions. As the title says, it should make you think!" Arthur is willing to provide a copy of his book free-of-charge to any interested party. A few copies were made available at the last Reunion Day. Anyone who would like to read the book should contact Arthur directly via an email message to: [kwest.10.n@btinternet.com](mailto:kwest.10.n@btinternet.com). Arthur will not be attending the 2014 reunion, though he says he is still "hanging in there". He hopes the weather will be kind and that we all enjoy the meeting. He also sends a "friendly gesture to 'Mabs' " and any other survivors from his era, and best wishes to everyone else.

**Ian Bryant (1937-42)** - "Regret I shall be unable to attend. At 88 years of age I have given up bungee-jumping, hiking and abseiling and while the spirit is willing to attend, the body is not compliant. Best wishes to all who remain to remember me and to the success of the reunion."

**Ron Green (1939-44)** - was unable to attend last year's reunion, being on holiday, but would like to send regards to former members of the Old Pals Hockey Team **Eugene Hamblet (1939-41)**, **Colin Thompson (1942-48)** and **Alan Mabbott (1942-50)**.

**Paddy May (1939-44)** - apologised for not being able to come to the 2013 or 2014 reunions to meet old friends and team-mates, citing reduced mobility - he is mainly chairbound these days. Paddy recalls playing in all Old Pals' sports sections post-war, including mixed hockey. He sends best wishes and regards to all.

**D Jim Ross (1939-44)** - hopes to attend next year's reunion with **Norman Taylor (1940-46)** and **David Morgan (1939-47)**. He remembers other friends who are now dead: Bill Hill, Dr Geoff Taylor and Tony Witchell, who made up the "Gang of Six".

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Marjorie Gregory (Ford, 1931-36??)** - Marjorie's brother **Michael Ford (SGS 1941-48)** supplied the sad news that Marjorie had passed away on March 13<sup>th</sup> last year, aged 93. He writes: "Marjorie was the second of five Ford siblings to attend the Slough grammar schools - William Street, Twinches Lane and Lascelles Road. She was always a keen sportswoman, representing the county in both hockey and tennis; later, as a 5-handicap golfer, she won many championships at the Burnham Beeches Golf Club, as well as playing for the county team. In 1946 she married Bob Gregory and they lived on their farm in Cippenham, where their son Graham was born in 1952. In 1967 they moved to their final home in Burnham. Marjorie always had a wonderful sense of humour. Graham, her two grandchildren, Christine and Alex, and her two surviving brothers greatly miss her - and her jokes!"

**Yvonne Green (Tuddenham, 1933-38)** - in November last year we were informed by **Vivien Tuddenham (SHS 1945-?)** and a former editor of the OPA Newsletter) that her sister Yvonne had died on 10<sup>th</sup> November, her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Yvonne lived in Stroud. Vivien writes: "Yvonne took an active part in all aspects of school life. After leaving, she joined the Civil Service and this led to her being evacuated to Harrogate during the war. After the war she spent time in Hamburg, Germany, where a Civil Service Commission assisted the British Army of the Rhine in its reclamation work. In 1965 she married Major Geoffrey Green M.B.E and became step-mother to Richard. Yvonne played hockey for the Old Pals until her marriage took her to live in Kent and then Gloucestershire. She regularly attended Old Pals reunions until travelling became too difficult."

**Coral Colgate (Nixey, 1936-41)** - news reached us in May 2013 that Coral had died on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. Her son Tim kindly supplied the following biographical notes: "After leaving school, my mother started work at Hemsley Miller, chartered accountants, before moving on to her best job at Savoury & Moore, a chemist in Windsor. She met my father, Bill Colgate, and they married at St Lawrence's Church in Slough on 10th June 1950. When the Colgate family bakery business was sold in 1964, Mum and Dad moved to Windlesham to run a village store. In 1966 they moved to Guildford, where Mum remained in the same house until her death last December. She spent most of her life running the house but in later years had a couple of part-time jobs in Guildford. For many years she attended School reunions until last year, when failing health prevented her from coming. She was great friends with **Hilda Murphy (Wingrove, SHS 1936-41)** and I believe that Hilda is now the sole survivor of their class. They used to reminisce about their times at school during the 30's. I did in fact see Hilda a few days ago, as her son Alan has been a lifelong friend of mine." Subsequently, Coral's sister-in-law **Barbara Hillier (Colgate, SHS 1940-46)** reported that her brother (Coral's brother-in-law) **Roger Colgate (SGS 1950-56)** was walking from John O'Groats to Lands End to raise money for two charities: the "Tear Fund" and "Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children". (*I assume this was in Coral's memory - Ed.*) Having set off on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, Roger had already reached Stratford-on-Avon by mid-June and was aiming to finish on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Not bad at 74!



## **\*\*1940s\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Evelyn Greenwood (Gibbons, 1941-46)** - wrote before last year's event: "I'm sorry I shall be unable to attend the AGM on July 6<sup>th</sup>, due to my husband Ellis's illness, but wish you all a very happy reunion." Unfortunately, we learned later in the year that Ellis (SGS 1941-46?) passed away in Nov/Dec, aged 83.

**June Ginger (Hunt, 1941-47)** - sends greetings to anyone who remembers her.

**Margaret Paine (Paine, 1943-48)** - "Following on from last year (*when she was planning a visit to family in Scotland*): The holiday in Scotland was very enjoyable in the snow. I had my first experience of driving a Buggy at Balmoral, which enabled me to keep up with the family. I joined the Old Paludians on leaving school and played hockey with them for ten years until my first child arrived. Mostly, I'm remembered as having played goalkeeper. I remember the old days at SHS reunions when the committee did all the catering and committee meetings took place in Miss Crawford's room. We had children's parties for a few years. They were happy days. Passing rapidly on, I now have four happily married children and six grandchildren. Next year I will have been a member for 66 years and the Old Pals will be celebrating their centenary. Now we need some younger blood to keep the association going for many more years to come!"

**Beryl Elliott (Artiss, 1943-51)** - "It was good to get news of the school and "old girls". I shall not be attending this year but send best wishes."

**Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48)** - wrote in June 2013: "Reunion time is here again. I hope the get-together is a great success and am sorry not to be with you. I enjoyed reading the Newsletter and congratulate the new Editor. Unfortunately, there are only a few names I know at the beginning! Very best wishes to all Old Pals and to the Committee."

**Mary Haydock (File, 1944-51)** much regretted being unable to attend the 2013 reunion and wished everyone a successful and enjoyable day - her husband was recovering from a hip replacement operation, as a result of which she needed to be at home. Mary currently lives in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and enjoys playing golf and bowls rather than hockey, which was her sport at school. She meets regularly with former schoolfriends Judy Hawes and Elizabeth Brown, both of whom live in Thetford. The only other contemporary she has "found" is Eunice Hernaman and she would love to receive news of others. Specifically, she mentions: **Barbara Court, Thelma Hazel, Janet Findlater, Janet Collin, Marian Basden and Pamela Thompson** (all maiden names). Can anyone help with any of these individuals?

**Sheila Hughes (Webb, 1945-51)** - "I am sorry that I shall be unable to attend. Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable reunion."

**Maureen Harris (Reardon, 1946-54)** - is unable to attend but sends "every good wish".

**Kitty Fleming (Pleace, 1947-53)** - is unable to attend this year's reunion but hopes we have a very successful meeting.

**Maureen Lessels (Clancy, 1948-53)** - Maureen has not been to many reunions - she remembers attending Miss Crawford's retirement but has only managed one or two others. Sadly, she has been unable to join us since 2009 because her husband David had a stroke in that year and is now permanently in a wheelchair, which considerably limits her social life. They have four daughters but only one lives nearby, so Maureen manages on her own with the assistance of carers, who visit four times a day. Also in 2009, Maureen was herself diagnosed with lymphoma. After chemotherapy she went into remission, which lasted four years but the lymphoma recurred in April 2013, so she is now undergoing a second dose of chemotherapy. She remembers her years at SHS as a very happy time and would like to meet old friends again if it proves feasible. If any old schoolmates would like to contact Maureen, she is willing to be contacted by email (contact the Editor for details).

**Mary Shepherdson (Clements, 1949-54)** - regrets she is unable to make the reunion; she is a Methodist Local Preacher and already committed to taking a service that day. She hopes we have a good day and sends everyone her best wishes.

**Stella Holmes (Ward, 1949-57)** - Sadly, I shall be away on the reunion weekend but wish you well and hope everyone has a great day.

## **BOYS**

**John Tebbit (1941-47)** - wrote in May 2013 to say he is still in regular touch with **Ron Harris (SGS 1941-47)**. His letter continues as follows: "Ron and I first became friends back in September 1943, when we were seated next to each other at SGS. Subsequently we both played football for the Old Paludians for a long time. I packed it in after suffering a fractured leg, then a broken jaw after colliding with our goalkeeper at Gunnersbury Park in 1970. That put an end to my playing years at the age of 40. Ron sensibly retired before that. We still go rambling together every Wednesday with some other friends - yesterday (22 May 2013) from Amersham to Little Missenden and back to complete our regular five miles or so. We will both be 83 this year and hope to keep this going as the years pass. Fortunately, we have wives to keep us on the right track!"

**Fred Collins (1941-47)** - followed up last year's Newsletter entry, in which he maintained that a Miss Smith was the first lady teacher at SGS. Fred has now found an old handwritten list of school staff, dated January 1943, which proves his point. Names in the list are as follows: Senior Assistant, Mr. Llewellyn; Mr. Anderson, Mr. Collin, Mr. Evans, Mr. Hampshire, Mr. Hesketh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Leftwich, Mr. Luck, Mr. Mairs, Mr. Paisley, Mr. Purvis, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Smith, MISS SMITH, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Todd, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Vivash, Mr. Wignall, (Mr. Wilson), Mr. Morgan (Sept. 1943), Mr. Collins (Jan. 1944). (*Some of these names are familiar, as they were still on the staff when I started in 1956. Ed*). Fred reports that 2013 was a very busy year for him, with lots of travelling. He is still able to fly his Cessna 180 whenever the weather permits and is "still active in Rotary, Freemasons, Probus Club, fishing and hunting with my son in Northern British Columbia and keeping my house maintained." He sent his best wishes to all at the 2013 Reunion, which he was unable to attend, and does likewise for 2014.

**Ron Fidler (1943-49)** wrote in June 2013: "I am sorry that once again I am going to miss this year's Reunion due to holidays. This year I will be in Florida with the two younger generations of family, amongst other things celebrating our grandson's degree. This is the second successive

reunion I have missed, so I expect the call to go to the Chairman's' office for an explanation! I am really sorry to miss what will surely be a very memorable occasion. My best wishes for a very successful and enjoyable day. Finally, may I just thank you all for the wonderful job you are doing in keeping the Old Paludians so alive. I know a little about reunions, as after I completed my National Service in 1953 I organised a reunion the following year and that has continued without interruption. So next year will be the 60<sup>th</sup>!"

**Cliff Hillman (1943-47)** was pleased to see his friend Elwyn Dyer (**SGS, 1943-48**) mentioned in the 2013 Newsletter. As chairman of Maidenhead Golf Club, he had been able to support Elwyn's application to join a golf club in Australia, because Elwyn was a former member of the Maidenhead Club. (*obviously, who you know matters in golf, even if he's on the other side of the world! Ed*). Cliff is rarely able to attend reunions, being usually on holiday in March. With the 2013 event being in July, he had hoped to attend - unfortunately there was a date clash with an open invitation competition event at Maidenhead Golf Club. He sends best wishes to his contemporaries, in particular "Old Pals stalwart David Jewell", and hopes everyone has a great day.

**David Jewell (1943-51)** - on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 David was presented with Maundy Money by the Queen in honour of his work as head verger at St Mary's Parish Church, Slough, which he has attended for over 70 years. He had been nominated by the Bishop of Oxford and attended the ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral along with son Michael and 86 other recipients. David became head verger at St Mary's after retiring as head of maths at a school in London. Belated congratulations from us all! (*These details were taken from an article in the "Slough Express", so I hope they're correct! Ed*.)

**Barry Serjent (1943-49)** - "In the 2013 Newsletter Fred Collins mentions our music teacher, Miss Smith - P.J., as her initials appear on my Summer 1944 Report. I really enjoyed her classes and being in the school choir and was very upset when I heard of her death - I believe she died in the summer of 1945. I continued to sing in the choir but got even more pleasure when the School Dramatic Society was revived. In December 1949 we performed our first full-length play, "Arsenic and Old Lace", in which I played Dr Einstein. The role called for quite a bit of elderly make-up and a bald wig - no such additions would be necessary these days! The play was directed by "Joe" Purvis and designed by Vincent Evans. Among the "techies" was my old friend **David Jewell** (see above), who acted as prompter and property manager. My love of the theatre has continued to this day and I have notched up 100 productions with my local group, the "East Lane Theatre Club" in Wembley. After I left SGS I donated a cup for Best Performance in an SGS production; it was certainly presented for a few years but I lost track of it and it seems to have disappeared. (*Any past winners out there, or anyone know what has happened to it? Ed*.) My last appearance on the school stage was in March 1951, when I did a magic act in a "Grand Concert" held in aid of the Old Pals Memorial Fund. Happy days!"

**John Read (1945-51)** - "Unfortunately, I will not be able to join you for the reunion. Appreciate the Newsletter though, hearing about some old colleagues. Best regards."

**Philip Seal (1948-52)** - "Regret I shall be uable to attend on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the problem being limited ability to move my limbs freely. Simply put: old age is having a marked effect. If only there were a lubricant for muscles and joints! I am sure that all attendees will find it an enjoyable event. Best wishes from a very wet Devon village."

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Joyce Cooper (Hearn, 1940-45)** - We were sorry to learn that Joyce had died in May 2013. Joyce's elder sister **Edna Parrett (Hearn, SHS 1937-43)** says their father was the owner of Hearn's the Butcher's in Burnham High Street and on leaving school Joyce did the office work at the shop. After her marriage, she and her husband ran the Crispin Public House in Burnham for many years. Following his death, she undertook voluntary work at "Cornerstones" in Burnham, was a bell-ringer at Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham churches, and was lady captain at Burnham Golf Club in the year 2000. She had no children of her own but adored her nephew and niece and spent a lot of time with her sister and brother-in-law. Edna supported Joyce through the latter years, when she suffered from bone cancer and leukaemia. Our especial condolences to Edna, who suffered a double blow when her husband died just a few days after Joyce.

**Audrey Bedford (Nickless, 1941-48)** - Audrey and her husband John were tragically killed in a car crash on May 23<sup>rd</sup> last year, just a mile from their home in Oldbury, near Birmingham. They were 82 and 81 respectively. Audrey was Head Girl at SHS in her final year and also played hockey for the school and county. In 1948 she progressed to Reading University, where she read French and English Literature, followed by a year in a French university. In 1952 she began teaching French at Eccles High School and 8 years later married John, a Baptist minister. The couple had been at the forefront of Brandhall Baptist Church in Oldbury for over 40 years and had also served in Baptist churches at Bewdley and Coseley (Birmingham area). Audrey and John travelled the world in their work, leading church-building missions in South America. Audrey's brother **Brian Nickless (SGS 1947-52)** adds that, apart from her church activities, she was also an avid England cricket fan! They leave three children and six grandchildren. (*Thanks to Brian for helping with information about Audrey's life. If anyone would like to read the many glowing tributes to the couple, try Googling "John & Audrey Bedford" and click on the article published in the "Express and Star", published 25/5/2013. Ed.*)

**Ann Roberts (Brooks, 1943-48)** - **Margaret Paine**, a contemporary of Ann's, writes: "Ann sadly passed away on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 after an operation. She was born in London, spent her early days in Fulham and then moved to Colnbrook. Photographs which were used during the eulogy at her funeral showed many happy images of laughing SHS schoolgirls, including Ann's friends Val and Mary (*surnames not stated. Ed*). After leaving school, Ann worked at Black and Decker and it was there she met her future husband Peter. They were together for 60 years and celebrated their diamond wedding in 2011. They had many happy holidays abroad with their children Stuart and Sally. Many years ago Sally and her family moved to New Zealand, where Peter and Ann visited them on a number of occasions. They also had holidays in Africa, the USA and Canada, where they had family members. We all miss Ann - she was a regular attendee at reunions until moving to Shropshire to be near her son. Happy memories."

**Muriel Aird (Bubb, 1946-53)** - Muriel's sister **Christine Robilliard (Bubb, SHS 1956-60)**, who hopes to be at this year's reunion, writes: "I am sorry to have to write that Muriel died on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, at home with her family around her, after having been diagnosed with cancer three years earlier. She attended Montem Primary School before Slough High and enjoyed school life. After leaving school, she trained at the West London School of Physiotherapy and then worked at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital in Taplow and at Upton Hospital. During this time she also trained at a ballet and tap-dancing school in Windsor, where she met



Ralph, her husband of fifty-four years, who was teaching ballroom dancing there. She soon qualified as a ballroom dancing teacher and this led to many years travelling the world on liners and a successful dancing school in Egham and Englefield Green in Surrey. In 1986, when I moved to Dorset, Muriel and Ralph came as well - she worked at Dorchester County Hospital and they both taught dancing at Weymouth Pavilion and many other venues in the area. Muriel loved coming back to Slough for the reunions and was so sorry when she realised she was not strong enough to attend last year. However, she stayed in contact with school friends and was supported all through her illness with cards, letters and phone calls, which she appreciated so much." **David Pritchard (SGS 1951-54)** remembers being a pupil at the dancing school and attended the funeral on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **BOYS**

**John Rolls (1940-45)** - A well-known local musician, John died on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, aged 84. His funeral service was held at St Michael's Church, Bray on January 31<sup>st</sup> and was attended by his cousin **Carol Mansfield (SHS 1958-65)** and **June Barrell (SHS, Massey, 1940-46)**, among others. John was born in Elliman Avenue, Slough, in 1929. While a pupil at SGS during WWII, he used to tune in to a radio programme called "Duffel Bag" on the American Forces Network - listening to the sound of "big band swing" had a major effect on John. He learned to play the clarinet, saxophone and flute without receiving any formal tuition. As a teenager, he played in a small band called "The Club Men" at Slough Youth Club. He became interested in "be-bop" and with friends set up a jazz club at a venue called "The Barn" in Salt Hill Park. Subsequently, he played jazz in a quintet at "The George" in Farnham Road; the quintet went on to play at many clubs outside the Slough area. When it came to National Service, John joined the RAF as a draughtsman and voluntary musician (*So he played trumpet as well? Sorry, couldn't resist that one! Ed*). Returning from the RAF in 1949, he played in the Geoff Groves Orchestra at Slough Public Hall, where he met his wife Pat, and later performed three nights a week at a club in Uxbridge called "Burtons". Other interests were sports cars and art. He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

**Harry Werrell (1941-46)** - Harry died on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 while he and his wife Jean were staying in Yorkshire with their daughter Judith. Thus it came about that Harry was cremated in Yorkshire, with a memorial service following at St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield, on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. **Ron Fidler (SGS 1943-49** - see above) knew Harry well and reports that the congregation emerged from the church singing "We all go the same way home!" He writes: "Harry had recovered successfully from two major operations when he unfortunately fell and fractured his hip and pelvis, which weakened him severely. His many local, national and international friends remember him for his variety of talents. As a business man, he was highly successful in the field of adhesives and sealants. An actor and producer to the highest professional standards, he formed Slough Theatre Group and brought new and original material to local audiences. He was responsible for the first ever production, outside the USA, of Kurt Weill's musical/opera "Street Scene". The Victorian Old Time Music Halls staged in the Farnham Royal village hall were great favourites and were always sold out. His love of the theatre extended across a spectrum of tastes from Shakespeare to modern-day musicals. He was a brilliant painter, as can be seen in his home and from his treasured annual Christmas cards. Harry loved sport and, apart from the major games, was involved in motor-racing sponsorship. He will be sadly missed by Jean, his family and many friends around the world."



**Elwyn Dyer (1943-48)** - We learned from his son that Elwyn, who lived near Sydney in Australia, had passed away in mid-October 2013. After school Elwyn had undertaken training as a navigator and then a pilot and spent time in Rhodesia. He also worked at Ronald Trist's, a firm on Slough Trading Estate. He and his wife **Marie (Colbourne, SHS 1942-47)** left their home in Stoke Poges in September 2007 and emigrated to Australia, so that they could be nearer to family. Their new home was in West Pymble, a suburb in the Upper North Shore area of Sydney. We send condolences to Marie and Elwyn's family.

**Eric Duncan (1947-52)** - Eric died on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2013. His widow Thelma kindly supplied the following short obituary: "Eric was born in Sunderland, County Durham, and moved to Slough at the age of three. He was in the Navy for 12 years, having joined aged 17, which took him all over the world. On leaving the Navy, he joined Harris Intertype for a short while before joining Crane Packing, now John Crane, and stayed there for the remainder of his working life. He was married for 53 years and leaves a wife, three children, one grandson and six granddaughters."

## **\*\*1950s\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Pamela Mackey (Shelton-Smith, 1950-56)** - "I wish everyone at the reunion an enjoyable day. If anyone remembers me and comes to Torbay or Devon on holiday, please get in touch. We have a new granddaughter, born to our daughter on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2014. Our son's small boy will be three in February this year. Best wishes to all, Pam."

**Jenny Launder (1951-56)** - "I did so appreciate receiving all the news of the teachers I had known. Some have now died but I met them all when I came to the 2011 reunion, I think. I had a bad year in 2012, with numerous chest infections. I now have fibromyalgia (a form of arthritis) and require a walker, which is very helpful, but I think my days of travelling as far as Slough from Surbiton are over. However, I still enjoy hearing all the news. Thank you for all you do for the Old Paludians, especially Jean Tyler - think she's been doing it a long time now."

**Sylvia Legg (Naylor, 1951-56)** - thanks the Old Pals for the reunion invitation but explains that she is unable to travel to the UK (from Australia) this year. She hopes the event is a big success and that everyone has an enjoyable time catching up with old friends.

**Joan Lee (Wood, 1951-58)** - is unable to attend but hopes the day goes well.

**Rosemary Dickens (Bowles, 1952-58)** - regrets being unable to attend the 2014 reunion but wishes everyone a very happy day.

**Angela Mactavish (1952-59)** - reported that she was obliged to miss last year's reunion as she was awaiting a hip replacement operation at the end of July. This meant that driving was too painful at the time, but she does hope to attend in 2014. She sends her best wishes to everyone.

**Gwyneth Sargent (Jones, 1953-58)** - "Thank you for this year's invitation to attend the reunion on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend, although I will be in the UK at that time. That weekend will be particularly busy for us, as we are celebrating a daughter's

birthday in London, a grand-daughter's birthday in Gloucester and (hopefully) the arrival of our second great-grandchild in Maidenhead! I hope you have a very successful and enjoyable day."

**Margaret Painter (Butcher, 1953-58)** - will be on holiday on reunion day but wishes us a very successful meeting.

**Ann Jerram (Smith, 1953-60)** - is sorry she cannot attend this year's reunion but wishes the event success and hopes to attend in 2015.

**Theda Bramble (1954-61)** - "I am sorry I shall not be able to attend this year but I am looking forward to receiving the Newsletter, to catch up with news of everyone. Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable day."

**Judy Dean (Finn, 1954-61)** - cannot attend the reunion but hopes it goes well.

**Lyn Jones (Williams, 1954-61)** - hopes everyone has a lovely day on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Jenny Brooks (Hudson, 1955-60)** - regretted being unable to attend the July 2013 reunion, as she was spending the summer cruising around the Inland Waterways on a narrowboat. At the time of writing, she had just been on the Llangollen Canal and crossed the remarkable Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. (*As it happens, I shall be doing the same next month - Ed.*) The views across the Dee Valley were stunning. She is likewise unable to attend in 2014 but sends her best wishes for a successful day.

**Deborah Wright (Bishop, 1955-62)** - "Had a nasty health scare in autumn but am now OK. Family all well, music going strong. Hope to be there next year."

**Christine Seaville (Herman, 1957-62)** - after receiving the 2013 Newsletter, Christine wrote from Canada suggesting separation of the entries for each decade by school, ie. former SHS pupils to be grouped together, then SGS. I have adopted this proposal, which should make it easier for readers to home in on alumni of their own particular school. Christine enjoyed reading in the Newsletter about changes taking place in the current school but was astonished to learn that the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme was being discontinued - it is apparently very popular in Canada. Her own daughter took IB and is of the opinion that it gave her the critical thinking skills she has today. Christine is unable to attend the 2014 reunion but hopes everyone has a good time catching up.

**Shelagh Rothero (Jacques, 1958-63)** - "I am sorry not to be coming to the reunion this year, but I shall probably be half-way up a snow-covered mountain in the French Alps wondering how I got myself into such a pickle when the only way down is on two narrow pieces of some fancy man-made material assisted by two sticks with pointed ends.....enough said! Oh, and there is the added excitement (???) that the visibility could be bad. Sometimes I think I must be mad, but it is a sport we as a family have enjoyed for many years and one of our great pleasures now is to watch our grandchildren following in our footsteps, so to speak. May you all have a wonderful day at the reunion, may the singing go well - and since 2015 is our centenary, may there be a really good attendance at the reunion next year!"

**Angela Jones (Drakeford, 1958-65)** - "Unfortunately I will be away yet again. It's a difficult time of year for me. I always look forward to hearing Old Pals news, though there are fewer people I recognise. Please give my best wishes to everyone and I hope you enjoy a good day."

**Jennifer Ballard (Biss, 1959-62)** - is unable to attend the reunion as she will not return to the UK from Cyprus until the end of May. She does plan to attend future reunions if they take place during the summer or if she happens to be in the UK when the event is held.

**Gillian Ryman (Moser, 1959-64)** - hopes everything goes well on March 15<sup>th</sup> and that we all have a wonderful day.

**Barbara Storey (Beaufoy, 1959-64)** - is unable to attend the reunion because she will be working at Windsor Library. She sends good wishes for a successful day.

## **BOYS**

**David James (1953-60)** - "I attended last year's reunion with **Reg Fahey (1954-60)**. This was the first time I had been back since leaving school in 1960! We found the day an interesting one, enabling us to reminisce about the "old days". However, I will not be attending this year. As I'm not very computer literate, I still haven't been able to find out how many other 1960 people are members. I hope you have a successful day."

**Ron Ferris (1958-64)** - regrets he is unable to attend the reunion, being otherwise engaged that day.

**John Overton (Revd, 1959-67, Head Boy 1966-67)** - "I am sorry that I am unable to attend the reunion this year. My training incumbent (vicar) is about to go off on 3 months sabbatical and I am his cover. As to news, having been made deacon in Derby Cathedral 18 months ago, I was ordained priest on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in St John's Church, Buxton. I am currently still non-stipendiary assistant curate at St George's New Mills, which is about 12 miles from where we live. Some may be interested to know that on Maunday Thursday 2013, after the Blessing of the Oils service, I bumped into **Revd Stuart Baxter**, who was Head Boy at SGS in the early 1960s. He is retired and now lives in Belper, Derbyshire. I hope that you all have a splendid reunion."

## **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

## **GIRLS**

**Marjorie Toogood (Smith, 1950-55)** - Marjorie died peacefully on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2013, aged 75, at Thames Hospicecare, Windsor. The funeral service was held at Slough Crematorium on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Known to everyone as "Marj", she was born in Iver Village in 1938 and attended the local infants school while WWII was still ongoing. She progressed to SHS after passing the 11+ exam and on leaving school joined Barclays Bank as a junior clerk. She married **Clive Toogood (SGS 1951-56)**, who also worked for Barclay's, in 1963 and they had two daughters. Their first home was a flat in Datchet; subsequently, they moved to a house in Langley and were still there when Marj passed away last year. When she returned to work, Marj was employed by Panasonic,

a small company at that time, first in Slough then later in Bracknell, while Clive remained at Barclay's. In retirement, Marj and Clive helped the daughters look after their seven grandchildren and were also able to travel to many parts of the world on holiday. Back at home, Marj enjoyed her garden and pottering around in the greenhouse. She therefore had a very fulfilled life. *(Many thanks to Clive for supplying the information for this brief summary. Ed.)*

**Jill Mansfield (1950-58)** - The following obituary was kindly provided by **Caroline Smith (Menniss, SHS 1951-58)**: "Jill was deaf and managed at school with hearing aids, a hefty battery and help from friends. She learned lip-reading. Having passed her 'A' levels, she progressed to Reading University but unfortunately decided to visit a famous deaf school in Massachusetts - the cabin pressures of the flight destroyed what hearing she had, so for most of her life she remained profoundly deaf. She failed her end of year exams, which was a shock to her and her family. She then worked in various jobs in Slough and married, but the marriage did not last and she eventually moved to Southampton and then the Bournemouth area. With a friend, she founded an advertising agency and worked freelance; she also did a graphics course. One of her most important achievements was to make two videos about deafness, the first showing what the deaf could actually hear inside their heads. These films were widely used and very successful. In the early 1990s she was one of the first to be fitted with a cochlear implant at Southampton University. It was a revelation to hear again and she took to travelling all over the place on her own. A second implant was fitted in 2006. In 2008 she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and spent the rest of her days in a care home with a happy atmosphere and continuity of staff. She remained there until her death from bronchial pneumonia in 2013."

## **\*\*1960s\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Yvana Reeves (1960-67)** - is unable to join us on March 15<sup>th</sup> but hopes the day will be great fun for all.

**Ann Benstock (Thomas, 1961-66)** - regrets that she will be unable to attend this year's reunion but very much hopes to be with us in 2015.

**Anne Harris (1961-69)** - wrote before last year's reunion: "Thank you for the splendid Newsletter. I regret I shall be unable to attend the (2013) reunion. Please give my good wishes to any who may remember me. Distance and increasing age mean I do not come to Berks/Bucks as often as I used to and I shall have been down shortly before the meeting. I look back happily on my time at SHS and wish you all well for the future."

**Yvonne Davies (Ranscombe, 1962-69)** - "Sorry that I am unable to come this year, hope to be there next year."

**Pat Hall (Painter, 1963-70)** - was unable to attend the 2013 reunion, being away on holiday, but sent her best wishes to anyone who remembers her and hopes to make it one year. Pat advises that she is still teaching maths at St Helen and St Katharine (independent girls' school) in Abingdon, though reducing hours next year and planning to retire in July 2014. She is looking forward to being able to take holidays during term time!

**Lorraine Beaven (Purslow, 1965-72)** - The "Slough Observer" of 10/1/14 included an article covering Lorraine's retirement from Ryvers School in Trelawney Avenue, Langley, where she was head of nursery and reception. She had spent 22 years at the school and was described by colleagues as "a wonderful teacher" who would be greatly missed. Lorraine celebrated her retirement by taking an extended holiday in New Zealand, a country she had always wanted to visit.

**Lesley Ashton (1967-74)** - explains that she will be unable to attend the reunion, being in Rome that day to attend the England v Italy rugby match!

**Christina Francis (Burrell-Davis, 1968-75)** - "After leaving school I went to Redland Teacher Training College, which later became the Faculty of Education in Bristol Polytechnic. I taught infants for 4 years in Worthing, then went to Sharjah, UAE, to teach for 2 years. After marrying in 1986, I taught at Licensed Victuallers, Ascot, for 10 years, then moved on to Marist Prep School in Sunninghill, where I worked for 15 years and was Head of Key Stage 1. In summer 2012 I took early retirement but have done regular supply teaching and am currently back at Sunninghill for 2 days a week. Three other members of staff there all attended SHS! I have two daughters, both living at home with me in Binfield. I've heard from one of the librarians at Binfield Library (who also attended SHS) that **Mrs Roderick**, who taught me French, goes to the book club there. I have particularly fond memories of **Miss Baker (SHS 1952-89)**, who taught me Spanish, and **Mrs Boul**, who taught me French. **Mrs Twine** was also an excellent English teacher - she left in 1973. I remember having bun tokens when I first went to SHS - you bought one in class for about threepence, then had to queue up in the hall to exchange it for a bun. Later on we had the tuck shop. There was great excitement when some hot drinks machines arrived and you could buy plastic cup holders to hold the plastic cups, which were very hot. I'm sure it wouldn't be allowed by Health and Safety now!"

## **BOYS**

**Michael Frankl (1964-72)** - Michael reports on his quizzing activities as follows: "Having reached the semi-final of *Brain of Britain* on Radio 4 in 2012, I appeared in a heat of *Mastermind* in 2013. The programme was recorded in Salford in May and was broadcast in September. My specialist subject was "Frederick the Great", which was inspired by A-Level History study at SGS and the many years that I lived in Germany. I came third in my heat and therefore did not progress to the semi-final." Congratulations to Michael on having a tilt at these prestigious contests!

**Ken McKay (1965-74)** - Unfortunately, I will be in the USA over the reunion weekend. Will try to make it next year.

**David West (1966-73)** - "I'm afraid I will be unable to attend on this occasion due to a prior engagement. I hope you all have an enjoyable day full of nostalgia!"



## **\*\*1970s\*\***

### **GIRLS**

**Jenny Ediss (Lynch, 1970-77)** - wrote as follows after receiving her 2013 Newsletter:  
"I have just spent a delightful half-hour reading the Newsletter! It has made me quite nostalgic for England and for my home area, in particular. We really must visit St. Lawrence Church, since my husband **Geoffrey (SGS 1966-73)** is a radio astronomer! Geoffrey and I are still living in Valencia, in L.A. county, USA. So far we have escaped the wild fires and other hazards of living in this part of the world (though we did experience a minor earthquake of 4.0 last year). I am teaching Language Arts and Christian Education at a small, private school and enjoying teaching younger children, as opposed to High School pupils, for a change! Thank you very much for all the hard work in keeping us all in touch!" After reading Jenny's email, **Ian Cairns (SGS 1964-71)** said he remembered **John Ediss (SGS 1961-68)**, who turns out to be Geoffrey's older brother. John and wife Jill apparently divide their time these days between Kent and Galicia in Spain.

**Marian Fisher (Foster, 1974-80)** - "Thanks for the invitation and apologies that I am unable to attend. Hope it all goes well."

**Janet Smith (Shepherdson, 1975-81)** - "I'm afraid that, owing to distance, I am unable to attend. The area has been very much in my thoughts and prayers as I see old haunts, such as Datchet, under so much water. I hope you all have a great day and send my best wishes."

**Sofia Martinelli (Abdeali, 1976-82)** - is unable to attend the reunion as she will be out of the country on that day.

## **\*\*1980s, 1990s - NIL\*\***

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We warmly welcome all those who have become Life Members over the past year. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events, etc, and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road, we hope to see you at our reunions and other functions. On the other hand, don't let distance put you off. We regularly have members from the USA and Europe as well as from various parts of the UK join us on Reunion Day. Letters giving news of reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown an interest or made contact during the previous year.

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2013 - 2014

STAFF	
David Browne	1964 - 1996
Sue Riches	1985 - 2012

1940s	
Brian Nickless	1947 - 1952

1950s	
Beverley Warner (Bayliss)	1951 - 1956

1960s	
David Hudson	1962 - 1969
Jon Jeffery	1963 - 1969
Paul Martin	1966 - 1973

## OUR WEBSITE

Ian Cairns (1964-71) and Colin Cairns (1965-72), joint webmasters, report that there are now over 600 pictures on the website. Both the website and the relevant Wikipedia article(s) have been updated for the new school name. A big "thank you" to the scanning volunteers for adding a number of documents over the past year - your help is very much appreciated.

## THE OLD PALS ARCHIVE

In this year of the centenary of the outbreak of WWI, it is interesting to look back in our Archive on the effect the events of the time had on our school in its early days. Cheery accounts sent back by lads in training contrast with the powerful emotions released by the news of the death of the first pupil killed in the fighting; girls who leave begin to take up a widely expanded range of careers and employment. We shall incorporate as much as possible of this material into the photographic history of the school which we are preparing.

David Rogers



## *Lost, Found and Seeking*



**Barbara Court, Thelma Hazel, Janet Findlater, Janet Collin, Marian Basden and Pamela Thompson** - as mentioned above (1940s section), Mary Haydock would appreciate any information on these contemporaries.

**Derek Pomfret (1947-52) and Richard Overton (1962-70)** - we have lost touch with these two members, whose reunion invitations apparently failed to reach them. Can anyone help with their present whereabouts please?

**Pat Mills (Hunt, 1945-52), Mrs Fraser (Slattery, 1950s) and Valerie Holmes (maiden name/SHS dates unknown)** - are no longer members of the OPA.

*The date for the next Reunion cannot be announced now because the second phase of the building works may be taking place at the School in 2015.*

*As soon as the Bursar has agreed a date the webmaster will put it on our website .*

*We will send out our usual letter at the beginning of January and will publish the Newsletter in March.*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/13**

A full copy of the accounts will be available at the reunion. A very brief summary is reproduced below. It is not easy to make direct comparisons between 2012 and 2013, because 2012 was the school's centenary year and we had double the usual number of members attending the reunion; consequently, income and expenditure were higher than usual in that year. The main points to notice are:

- a) The cost of refreshments was much higher per head than in previous years, due to a change of catering arrangements at the school;
- b) Consequently, we gave the school £500 towards library books instead of the usual £1000;
- c) We had enough stamps left over at the previous lower rate of postage and had no need to buy more stamps during the year;
- d) We also still had stocks of notelets etc left from 2012.

You will see from the figures that we made a profit of £99.25 over the year.

We would continue encouraging members to receive Newsletters etc via email, to enable us to keep printing and postage costs to a minimum.

Finally, I would like to thank George Lucas for examining the accounts.

**Shelagh Whitehouse**

## **THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION**

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2013**

	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
Brought forward from previous year	£4,050.64	£4,394.58
Income for year	£3,529.25	£5,513.03
Expense for year	£3,430.00	£5,856.97
Profit or Loss (-) for year	£99.25	-£343.94
Carried forward to next year	£4,149.89	£4,050.64

Accounts prepared by Shelagh Whitehouse (Staff, 1993-2008)

Examiner of accounts: George Lucas (1938-44)

## THE OLD PALS COMMITTEE 2013 – 2014

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